

August 14, 2009

Al Basile
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100
Mail Code: CWQ
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Re: Impairments in the Great Bay Estuary to be added to the New Hampshire 2008 303d List

Dear Mr. Basile:

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services requests that the attached list of impairments be added to the 2008 303d List for New Hampshire.

These impairments relative to the Aquatic Life designated use in the Great Bay Estuary are listed in Table 1. DES identified these impairments using the numeric nutrient criteria that DES published for the Great Bay Estuary in June 2009 and updated eelgrass cover assessments that reflect new data for 2006-2008. The assessment methodology and other documentation are provided in the attached report.

As part of these assessments, DES split the assessment unit for the Lower Piscataqua River (NHEST600031001-02) into two pieces. The two new assessment units are NHEST600031001-02-01 (Lower Piscataqua River North) and NHEST600031001-02-02 (Lower Piscataqua River South). The assessments for all the designated uses were redone for these two new assessment units. Impairments which should be assigned to these new assessment units are shown in Table 2. Assessment unit NHEST600031001-02 should be removed from the database.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Trowbridge at (603) 271-8872 or Philip.Trowbridge@des.nh.gov.

Sincerely,

Paul Currier, P.E.
Administrator
Watershed Management Bureau

Cc: Harry Stewart, DES
Gregg Comstock, DES
Ken Edwardson, DES
Phil Trowbridge, DES

Table 1: Impairments to the Aquatic Life designated use in the Great Bay Estuary to be added to the New Hampshire 2008 303d List

AUID	DESCRIPTION	ASSESSMENT ZONE	NEW IMPAIRMENTS
NHEST600030903-01-01	BELLAMY RIVER NORTH	BELLAMY RIVER	Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030903-01-02	BELLAMY RIVER SOUTH	BELLAMY RIVER	Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030608-01	COCHECO RIVER	COCHECO RIVER	Chlorophyll-a Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-02	GREAT BAY PROHIB SZ1	GREAT BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-03	GREAT BAY PROHIB SZ2	GREAT BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-04-02	CROMMENT CREEK	GREAT BAY	Oxygen, Dissolved Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-04-03	PICKERING BROOK	GREAT BAY	Oxygen, Dissolved Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-04-04	FABYAN POINT	GREAT BAY	Oxygen, Dissolved Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-04-05	GREAT BAY CONDITIONALLY APPROVED	GREAT BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-04-06	ADAMS POINT SOUTH CONDITIONALLY APPR	GREAT BAY	Oxygen, Dissolved Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030709-01	LAMPREY RIVER	LAMPREY RIVER	Chlorophyll-a Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-06-10	ADAMS POINT MOORING FIELD SZ	LITTLE BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-06-11	ADAMS POINT TRIB	LITTLE BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-06-12	U LITTLE BAY (SOUTH)	LITTLE BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-06-13	LOWER LITTLE BAY	LITTLE BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-06-14	LOWER LITTLE BAY MARINA SZ	LITTLE BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-06-15	LOWER LITTLE BAY GENERAL SULLIVAN BRIDGE	LITTLE BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-06-16	ULITTLE BAY (NORTH)	LITTLE BAY	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031001-05	BACK CHANNEL	LITTLE HARBOR/BACK CHANNEL	Estuarine bioassessments Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031001-08	WENTWORTH-BY-THE- SEA	LITTLE HARBOR/BACK CHANNEL	Estuarine bioassessments Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031002-02	LITTLE HARBOR	LITTLE HARBOR/BACK CHANNEL	Estuarine bioassessments Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031001-02-01	LOWER PISCATAQUA RIVER NORTH	LOWER PISCATAQUA RIVER NORTH	Estuarine bioassessments
NHEST600031001-02-02	LOWER PISCATAQUA RIVER SOUTH	LOWER PISCATAQUA RIVER SOUTH	Estuarine bioassessments
NHEST600030902-01-01	OYSTER RIVER (JOHNSON CR)	OYSTER RIVER	Oxygen, Dissolved Dissolved Oxygen Saturation Chlorophyll-a Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030902-01-02	OYSTER RIVER (BUNKER CR)	OYSTER RIVER	Oxygen, Dissolved Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

AUID	DESCRIPTION	ASSESSMENT ZONE	NEW IMPAIRMENTS
			Chlorophyll-a Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030902-01-03	OYSTER RIVER	OYSTER RIVER	Chlorophyll-a Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600030904-06-17	OYSTER RIVER MOUTH	OYSTER RIVER	Oxygen, Dissolved Dissolved Oxygen Saturation Chlorophyll-a Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031001-11	UPPER PORTSMOUTH HARBOR-NH	PORTSMOUTH HARBOR	Estuarine bioassessments Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031001-03	UPPER SAGAMORE CREEK	SAGAMORE CREEK	Estuarine bioassessments
NHEST600031001-04	LOWER SAGAMORE CREEK	SAGAMORE CREEK	Estuarine bioassessments
NHEST600030406-01	SALMON FALLS RIVER	SALMON FALLS RIVER	Chlorophyll-a Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031001-09	SOUTH MILL POND	SOUTH MILL POND	
NHEST600030806-01	SQUAMSCOTT RIVER	SQUAMSCOTT RIVER	Chlorophyll-a Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031001-01-01	UPPER PISCATAQUA RIVER-NORTH, P/UC, 71.158, AC	UPPER PISCATAQUA RIVER	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031001-01-02	DOVER WWTF SZ, CLOSED, P/SZ, 208.27, AC	UPPER PISCATAQUA RIVER	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)
NHEST600031001-01-03	UPPER PISCATAQUA RIVER-SOUTH CLOSED, P/UNC, 208.27, AC	UPPER PISCATAQUA RIVER	Light Attenuation Coefficient Nitrogen (Total)

Table 2: Impairments to all designated uses in the Lower Piscataqua River to be added to the New Hampshire 2008 303d List

AUID	DESIGNATED USE	IMPAIRMENT
NHEST600031001-02-01	Aquatic Life	Estuarine Bioassessments
	Fish Consumption	Mercury
		Polychlorinated biphenyls
	Shellfishing	Dioxin (including 2,3,7,8-TCDD)
		Mercury
		Polychlorinated biphenyls
NHEST600031001-02-02	Primary Contact Recreation	ENTEROCOCCUS
	Secondary Contact Recreation	ENTEROCOCCUS
	Aquatic Life	Estuarine Bioassessments
	Fish Consumption	Mercury
		Polychlorinated biphenyls
	Shellfishing	Dioxin (including 2,3,7,8-TCDD)
		Mercury
		Polychlorinated biphenyls